

**Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Christian Fellner**

**Good-will Message**

**The Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP) Workshop  
Organized by Nigerian Salzburg Seminar Alumni and US Embassy**

Valencia Hotel, Abuja

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

H.E. American Ambassador Robin Sanders

Alumni Co-ordinator Adeolu Odusote

Prof. Stella Williams

Honourable members of the council,

Honourable alumini of the Nigerian Salzburg Network,

Dear Participants,

My sincere greetings to all of you. Unfortunately, I am not able to be with you today, but I would like to reassure you all of our interest in the ongoing workshop on Youth environmental leadership.

The Salzburg Seminars can be seen as a platform to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. The workshop is therefore exactly in line with this spirit:

Referring to the youth of today, who will become the leaders of tomorrow and discuss a major challenge of the world.

In Nigeria, you may find a number of problems directly or indirectly linked to environmental issues: Whether it is the situation in the Niger Delta, the Pollution of soil and water, the linkage between political, social and environmental issues in this region, the possibilities of Nigeria referring to the use of renewable energy, in particular water power, but also as wind or sun, which, by the way, can be seen put into practice right here in Abuja, illuminating street lights with sun energy.

In this context, Austria contributes to the solution of environmental problems and challenges with a whole range of products and ideas, reaching from water pumps

and renewable energies, up to the integration of environmental issues on an international level.

Facing the abovementioned challenges and finding solutions is what the Salzburg Seminars are about. The importance and emphasis, which is put on the mix of cultures and institutions, opinions and people, is to me a major strength of the Salzburg Global Seminars. The chances, which lie within the possibilities of ideas, and ideals crossing borders back and forth, enlightening each other and the people, who fight for those, are well exemplified today at the opening of the Nigerian Salzburg Seminar.

Furthermore, especially the Alumni Network provides the Salzburg Seminars with a rich resource of networking capabilities – those intellectual and organisational capabilities are needed as a main pillar for an event as this one here and as a constant base of operations for answers on those questions, which we face nowadays.

I am especially delighted, that this Workshop is directed to the youth. I hope that this is just a starting point for those participating and that they will carry all they learn and discuss within the next days with them to their universities, schools, initiatives, working places and contribute and keep learning on what has started today.

Thank you for your attention.